

*The 26th Annual  
Illinois Fallen Firefighter Memorial  
&  
Firefighting Medal of Honor Awards  
Ceremony*



*May 14, 2019  
Beginning at 10:00 a.m. on the State Capitol Lawn  
Southwest Corner on Statue Row  
Continuing in the Bank of Springfield Center  
Springfield, Illinois*

# *The 26th Annual Illinois Fallen Firefighter Memorial & Medal of Honor Awards Ceremony Program*

## *Illinois Fallen Firefighter Monument*

Presentation of the Colors	Associated Fire Fighters of Illinois Honor Guard
Invocation	Father John Ouper Oswego Fire Protection District
Remarks	Constitutional Officers

## *Bank of Springfield Center*

Posting of the Colors	Associated Fire Fighters of Illinois Honor Guard
Introductions	Chief James Grady, III Jay Bishop
Remarks	Constitutional Officers State Fire Marshal Matt Perez
Invocation	Father John Ouper
Bell Ceremony	Associated Fire Fighters of Illinois Honor Guard
Presentation of the Line of Duty Death Award	State Fire Marshal Matt Perez
"Taps"	Kirsten Clemens Ben King
Presentation of the Fire & Life Safety Award	State Fire Marshal Matt Perez
Presentation to Father John Ouper	
Presentation of the Firefighter Excellence Award	
Presentation of the Firefighter Excellence Unit Citation Award	
Presentation of the Medal of Valor	Medal of Honor Committee & Memorial Foundation
Musical Montage	
Closing Remarks	Chief James Grady, III
Retire the Colors	Associated Fire Fighters of Illinois Honor Guard

## *Line of Duty Death Award*

*The Line of Duty Death Award is given to the family of a firefighter deceased in, or as a result of, the performance of their duty.*

### *Honoree*

Firefighter Juan Bucio

Chicago Fire Department

## *Office of the State Fire Marshal Fire & Life Safety Award*

*The Fire & Life Safety Award is presented to recognize the extraordinary efforts in furtherance of fire prevention and life safety by fire departments, firefighters, and staff from the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal.*

### *Recipients*

Keith "Doc" Patterson

Illinois Fire Service Institute

Shelly Bradley

Office of the State Fire Marshal

Aaron Siegler

Office of the State Fire Marshal

## *Certificate of Recognition Award*

*The Certificate of Recognition acknowledges those nominated for  
their dedication to the principles and traditions of the  
Fire service, to the state and the community,  
with honor and integrity.*

### *Recipients*

Captain Michael Calabrese  
Lieutenant Michael Gelsinger  
Lieutenant Chad Gormann  
Chief John Lynch  
Firefighter James Sneddon

Centralia Fire Department  
Centralia Fire Department  
Centralia Fire Department  
Centralia Fire Department  
Centralia Fire Department

## *Firefighter Excellence Award*

*The Firefighter Excellence Award is awarded for an act of  
service in the line of duty, demonstrating excellence and  
professionalism in service to the citizens of the State of Illinois.*

### *Recipients*

Lieutenant Mike Hall  
Assistant Fire Chief Bob Key  
Deputy Fire Chief Mike Pakosta

Libertyville Fire Department  
Libertyville Fire Department  
Libertyville Fire Department

# *Firefighter Excellence “Unit Citation” Award*

*The Firefighter Excellence “Unit Citation” Award is awarded for an act of service in the line of duty, demonstrating excellence, teamwork, and professionalism in service to the citizens of the State of Illinois.*

## *Recipients*

### **Incident #18-0003344—Dolton Fire Department**

Lieutenant Jeremy Cole  
Engineer Jermel Brim

Lieutenant David DuVall

### **Incident #18-0003555—Dolton Fire Department**

Engineer Robert Triemstra

Firefighter Anton Downing

### **Incident #18-0000078—McLeansboro Fire Department**

Assistant Chief Jim Morris  
Firefighter Lukas Dale  
Firefighter Nathan Taylor

Firefighter/Police Officer Mathew Bryson  
Firefighter Walter Rexing

### **Incident #18-0000059—Momence Fire Protection District**

Lieutenant Jordan Lee  
Engineer Matthew Sharkey

Engineer Mike Keen

## *Medal of Valor Award*

*The Medal of Valor award is given by the state of Illinois to a firefighter for an act of heroism or bravery that clearly demonstrated courage and dedication in the face of danger while in the performance of duty.*

### *Recipients*



Firefighter/Paramedic Bryan Lowery	Calumet City Fire Department
Firefighter/EMT Daniel Ramos	Chicago Fire Department
Lieutenant Daniel Manning	Dolton Fire Department
Firefighter Aaron Cavender	Momence Fire Protection District
Firefighter Adrian Cavender	Momence Fire Protection District
Deputy Chief Michael Vissering	Northern Tazewell Fire Protection District
Firefighter/Paramedic Eric Watkins	Plainfield Fire Protection District
Captain Darin Peterson	St. Charles Fire Department

## *Medal of Honor Award*

*The Medal of Honor is the highest award given by the State of Illinois to a firefighter for an act of outstanding bravery or heroism, by which the firefighter has demonstrated in great degree the characteristics of selflessness and personal courage above and beyond the call of duty, under adverse conditions, with the possibility of extreme personal risk.*



## *Dedicated to the Firefighters of Illinois*

*In 1993 the Illinois Fire Services Association unanimously agreed that a monument should be erected to serve as the official memorial; it was to be located on the grounds adjacent to the state Capitol building. The Memorial would be viewed by thousands of visitors year 'round. The Firefighter Medal of Honor Committee, appointed by the Governor, assumed the responsibility of bringing the Memorial to reality.*

*Working with the Secretary of State's office, the Office of the State Fire Marshal, and a nationally recognized sculptor, the committee developed a design concept to transform the site into a Memorial in which the fire service of Illinois would be proud. The Illinois Firefighter Memorial is dedicated to the firefighters of Illinois, who have given their lives in the line of duty and to those firefighters who heroically serve with courage, pride and honor.*

*The artist was commissioned to design and construct an original bronze work of art consisting of four life-size figures of firefighters in full gear, a child, a ladder and hose. Each adult figure is approximately 6' 2" tall if in a standing position and represents the firefighters in full protective clothing, in action.*

*The art was created through the "lost wax" method of bronze casting and is finished in an antique bronze fire-on patina suitable for exterior exhibition, signed and dated by the artist. The figures are situated on a cairn 14 feet high consisting of Renaissance stone. There are 2,400 red paver bricks which are enclosed by a two foot high wall with capstones engraved with contributor's names.*

*It is here, at the Illinois Firefighter Memorial, that we honor those who have made the supreme sacrifice.*





DEDICATED TO THE FIREFIGHTERS OF ILLINOIS WHO HAVE GIVEN  
THEIR LIVES IN THE LINE OF DUTY AND TO THOSE WHO  
HEROICALLY SERVE WITH COURAGE, PRIDE AND HONOR

DEDICATED TO THE FIREFIGHTERS OF ILLINOIS WHO HAVE GIVEN  
THEIR LIVES IN THE LINE OF DUTY AND TO THOSE WHO  
HEROICALLY SERVE WITH COURAGE, PRIDE AND HONOR

## *Firefighting Medal of Honor Committee*

*The Governor of Illinois appoints the Firefighting Medal of Honor Committee, established by PA 86-1230, consisting of the State Fire Marshal, Fire Commissioner of the City of Chicago, Fire Chiefs, Representatives of Fire Service Organizations, and Retirees.*

Jay Bishop  
Jeff Bruno  
Timothy S. Clemens  
Richard Ford, II  
Daniel Fortuna  
Thomas Freeman  
James Grady, III  
Matt Perez  
Rick Welle

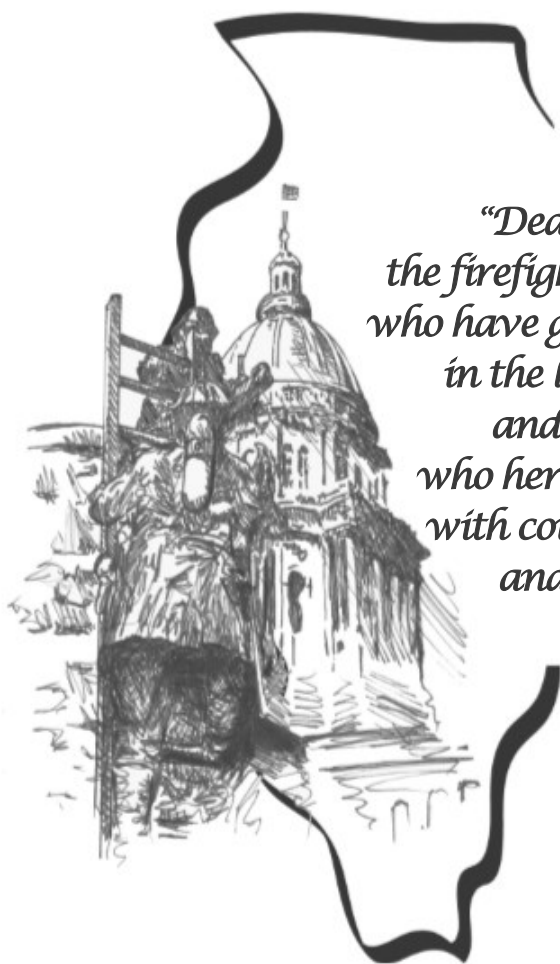
Springfield Fire Department (*Ret.*)  
Associated Fire Fighters of Illinois  
Wilmette Fire Department (*Ret.*)  
Fire Commissioner, City of Chicago  
Associated Fire Fighters of Illinois  
Chief, Elmhurst Fire Department  
Illinois Fire Chiefs Association  
State Fire Marshal  
Chief, Edwardsville Fire Department

## *Firefighter Memorial Foundation*

*Membership in the Foundation is automatically granted to all members of the Firefighting Medal of Honor Committee.*

Terry Ford  
Greg Knoll  
James LaMotte  
Robert Zamor

Godfrey Fire Protection District (*Ret.*)  
Homewood Fire Department (*Ret.*)  
Momence Fire Protection District (*Ret.*)  
Libertyville Fire Department (*Ret.*)



*"Dedicated to  
the firefighters of Illinois  
who have given their lives  
in the line of duty  
and to those  
who heroically serve  
with courage, pride  
and honor"*

